USPTO TO: CENTRAL FAX COMPANY: JUL. 28. 2005 2:58PM

1.

thereof:

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LVM 312 616 5700

¬NO. 5625--₽. 2

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

(Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I), or a salt

where R¹ and R² are each independently protecting groups which, together with the oxygen atoms to which they are attached, form part of a dioxane or dioxolane ring; and R³ is hydrogen or a protecting group;

including the steps of:

- (a) protecting the hydroxyl group at the C-6 position of N-acetyl-D-mannosamine, to give a 6-O-protected-N-acetyl-D-mannosamine, wherein the hydroxyl protecting group at the C-6 position is selected from the group consisting of a silyl group, a benzyl group, or an ester group;
- (b) reducing the C-1 anomeric carbon atom of the 6-O-protected-N-acetyl-D-mannosamine using a reducing agent selected from the group consisting of a metal hydride reducing agent or hydrogen gas/metal catalyst to give a 6-O-protected-N-acetyl-D-mannitol;
- (c) protecting the four hydroxyl groups of the 6-O-protected-N-acetyl-D-mannitol with protecting groups of formulae R¹ and R² as defined above;
- (d) removing the N-acetyl protecting group using basic conditions and optionally removing the C-6 oxygen atom protecting group using basic conditions to give the compound of formula (I).
- 2. (Canceled)
- 3. (Canceled)